Communicable Disease Branch Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Weekly Key Points

July 7, 2020

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) Communicable Disease Branch will be releasing COVID-19 weekly key points that includes information discussed on the bi-weekly Tuesday Local Health Department call. Recordings of the call will not be made available; please use the information below as a summary of the topics presented on the call. As guidance changes, please use the most recent information provided. For questions, contact the NC DPH Communicable Disease Branch 24/7 Epidemiologist on Call at **919-733-3419**.

Important updates
- **Updated: Find My Testing Place** (file attached)

Contact Tracing

Requesting CCNC surge staff can be done by emailing any of the following:
- cctc-staffing@communitycarenc.org
- Christina Page (cpage@communitycarenc.org)

Outbreaks

Reminder, NC DPH recommends the following definition for reporting outbreaks of COVID-19 in a congregate setting: an outbreak in a nursing home, residential care facility, correctional facility, housing of migrant workers, and homeless shelters is defined as two (2) or more positive COVID-19 cases. While recent CDC guidance suggests only one (1) case is considered an outbreak in a long-term care facility setting, we are not following that guidance. Control measures are recommended in a congregate setting when a single case is identified, but an outbreak report should not be submitted until at least two cases are identified.

Local health departments should report all COVID-19 clusters that meet the above definition to NC DPH. Reporting may be done through the Epidemiologist on Call at 919-733-3419 and/or by submitting an outbreak worksheet to CDOutbreakWorksheet@dhhs.nc.gov. An updated version of the outbreak worksheet is available on the CD manual.

Guidance for Closing Outbreaks and Clusters:

a. An outbreak or cluster can be declared over when 28 days have passed since the last symptom onset in a symptomatic patient, or 28 days since the first positive of the most recent asymptomatic case, whichever is later.
b. We review the outbreak or cluster events to verify when they will be over. We look at 4 different dates: for symptomatic persons, we look at the last symptom onset according to the results package and

according to the linked events; for asymptomatic persons, we look at the first positive in the most recent case according to the results package and the linked events. We add 28 days to whichever of those 4 dates is the latest to determine when an outbreak is over and can be removed from the website reports.

c. Up to this point, our outbreak team members have been attempting to verify these dates with the local health departments before closing each outbreak. Unfortunately, this is no longer feasible with several hundred outbreaks and clusters ongoing, and more being reported every day.

d. Rather than communicating with you about each outbreak or cluster that will be closing, we will be relying on the dates in the results package and the linked events. If 28 days have passed since the latest date in the results package and linked events, we will remove the outbreak or cluster.

e. We plan to move to this process at the beginning of next week, so you have this week and the weekend to ensure that the results package dates are accurate and as many events are linked as possible.

f. If there are events in your jurisdiction that are part of an outbreak or cluster in another jurisdiction, please share the event with the jurisdiction that owns the outbreak or cluster.

Movement & Monitoring

Please remember: When sending information to the Movement & Monitoring Team, please do not include any identifying or confidential information in emails to state employees, including attachments. Protected Health Information (PHI)/Patient Identifying Information (PII) is not permitted in any state email, as all state email is subject to North Carolina Public Records Law.

Community (testing for) High-Priority And Marginalized Populations (CHAMP)

For more information on the Community (testing for) High-Priority And Marginalized Populations (CHAMP) program please see the attached email sent out by Beth Lovette, which highlights Shannon Dowler's presentation.

Find My Testing Place

Please find attached this week's updated Excel file for LHDs to upload testing sites to *Find My Testing Place*. If you have any questions regarding the omission of testing sites in your county, please send an email to: SVC_Covid-19TestingSites@dhhs.nc.gov